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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 9, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 4 totaled an estimated 18.8 billion ton-miles, 2.6 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 40 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 702 billion ton-miles, 0.9 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended October 4 totaled 458,513 cars, 5.7 percent below 1979, but 1.6 percent above the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 7.3 percent in the East, 2.7 percent in the South, and 6.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down, although coal loadings were up 4,444 cars, or 3.9 percent; and grain loadings showed an increase of 3,611 cars, or 11.6 percent. Fifteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended September 27 totaled 33,512 cars, down 13.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 60,662 trailers and/or containers, 12.1 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 39 weeks of the year was 1,246,854 cars, 10.8 percent lower than last year, and 2,269,196 trailers and/or containers, down 8.0 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/04/80:

	Loadings in Week ended October 4, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	34,769	I	3,611	11.6	I	2,273	7.0
Other farm products	5,265	I	607	13.0	I	852	19.3
Metallic ores	28,506	D	9,298	24.6	I	1,600	5.9
Coal	117,789	I	4,444	3.9	I	1,180	1.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,171	D	2,118	12.3	I	182	1.2
Nonmetallic minerals	16,355	I	1,416	9.5	I	412	2.6
Grain mill products	17,632	D	266	1.5	D	106	0.6
Food and kindred products	18,225	D	475	2.5	D	766	4.0
Primary forest products	18,863	D	1,865	9.0	D	393	2.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,396	D	2,092	18.2	I	4	0.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,122	D	289	1.3	D	481	2.2
Chemicals and allied products	27,561	D	956	3.4	I	422	1.6
Petroleum products	5,529	D	832	13.1	I	84	1.5
Stone, clay and glass products	16,197	D	3,495	17.7	D	253	1.5
Coke	4,012	D	2,543	38.8	D	7	0.2
Metals and products	16,442	D	2,258	12.1	I	857	5.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,745	D	3,610	16.9	I	280	1.6
Waste and scrap materials	12,115	D	1,392	10.3	I	95	0.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	12,110	D	1,620	11.8	I	625	5.4
All other carloads	43,416	D	4,360	9.1	I	296	0.7
LCL traffic	293	D	111	27.5	I	45	18.1
Total Cars Loaded	458,513	D	27,502	5.7	I	7,201	1.6
Corresponding week of 1979	486,015						

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (40 weeks)	17,402,084	18,399,413	D	5.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
39 weeks cumulative	683.3	676.9	I	0.9
Week ended October 4	18.8	19.3	D	2.6
40 weeks cumulative	702.1	695.8	I	0.9

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